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The Dean and Chapter of St. Canice have been for some time engaged in the gradual development of such judicious restorations and improvements in the Cathedral, as their circumscribed funds will admit of. It is to be hoped that they may speedily turn their attention to the preservation and proper arrangement of the sepulchral monuments, the necessity for which is most urgent. Any movement for such a purpose, doubtless, may safely reckon on the sympathy and support of the members of the Kilkenny Archæological Society, and of the local public at large. To re-erect correctly and congruously the few misplaced altartombs, would be attended with very small expense indeed—to take out the less imposing ones from their present position as flooring flags, and place them where they would be safe from further injury, would be even easier of accomplishment, and the few pounds which would be required, would be readily subscribed. In a wide sense, these monuments are national property, and connected with the country's history—in a narrower view, they are peculiarly endeared to the hearts of Kilkenny men, by the associations of family history, by the natural reverence for remains of the olden time, and by the memory of pleasures of a high and enduring nature conferred by their study, and the elevating thoughts suggested by a contemplation of them.

KILKENNY COLLEGE.

BY THE REV. JOHN BROWNE, LL.D.

[*Read at the Meeting of November 6th.*]

In presenting to the library of the Society a transcript of the ancient Register of Kilkenny College, possessing, as it must, a high degree of interest, not only for most of the distinguished families of our own County, but for those of many other Counties also, whose ancestors have been educated in this “famous schoole,” as it has been justly styled—I wish at the same time to lay before the meeting some notices of the establishment over which I have the honour to preside, and to place on record, among our Transactions, the opinions expressed concerning it by some good men of the olden time. And it affords me sincere pleasure to be enabled to bring forward this brief notice of Kilkenny College in the presence of the descendant and representative of the noble House, by one of whose distinguished members it was originally founded. Although the presence of our Chairman and Patron* prevents me from saying on this subject as much as I could wish, yet I may

* The Marquis of Ormonde, who presided at the meeting.

venture to observe, I hope without offending, that the Lords of Ormonde have at all times been found the most prominent patrons of everything that could conduce to the happiness and improvement of the community amongst whom Providence placed them; and that being scholars themselves, and having learned and felt the force of the poetic maxim—

“ *Ingenuas didicisse fideliter artes,
Emollit mores, nec sinit esse feros*”—

they have always sought to promote the welfare of their people by endeavouring to cultivate amongst them a taste for the useful arts and sciences, and education of a high order—hence the foundation of Kilkenny College.

To quote the words of Banim, “Kilkenny College was the most famous, as well as the most ancient preparatory school in Ireland. It commenced as an appendage to the magnificent Cathedral of St. Canice, for the preservation of which, after Cromwell’s spoliation, we are indebted to the classic Pococke, and was then situate, according to Stanihurst, ‘in the west of the church-yard.’” The earliest information we possess respecting the original foundation is derived from the pages of the last mentioned author, whose quaint description, written toward the close of the 16th century, I here subjoin :—

“In the West ende of the church-yard of late haue bene founded a Grammar schoole by the right honourable Pierce or Peter Butler, Erle of Ormond and Ossory, and by his wife the countesse of Ormond, the lady Margarete fitz Girald, sister to Girald fitz Girald the Erle of Kildare, that last was. Out of which schoole haue sprouted such proper ympes through the painefull diligence and the laboursome industry of a famous lettered man, M. Peter White (sometyme fellow of Oriall colledge in Oxford, and schoolmaister in Kilkenny), as generally the whole weale publike of Ireland, and especially the southerne partes of that Island are greatly thereby furthered. This gentleman’s methode in trayning up youth, was rare and singular, framyng the education according to the scolers vaine. If he fond him free, he would bridle hym like a wyse Isocrates from his booke: if he perceiued hym to be dull, he would spur hym forward; if he understoode that he were ye worse for beating, he woulde win him with rewardes: finally, by interlacing study with recreation, sorrow with mirth, payne with pleasure, sownernes with sweetnesse, roughnesse with myldnesse, he had so good successe in schooling his pupils, as in good sooth I may boldly byde by it, that in the realme of Ireland was no Grammar schoole so good, in Englande I am well assured, none better. And because it was my happy happe (God and my parents be thanked) to haue bene one of his crewe, I take it to stand with my duety, sith I may not stretch myne habilitie in requiting hys good turnes, yet to manifeste my good will in remembryng his paines. And certes, I acknowledge myselfe so much bound

and beholding to him and his, as for his sake, I reuerence the meaneſt ſtone cemented in the wallſ of that famous ſchoole.” *

This Peter White, as we learn from Harris (*Writers of Ireland*, p. 95), was a native of Waterford, and, from his ſucceſs and ability as a trainer of youth, was termed “the lucky or happy ſchoolmaſter of Munſter.” He was promoted to the deanery of Waterford in 1566, but being afterwards ejected for non-conformity, he returned to his former occupation of ſchool-maſter. His death occurred about the latter end of Elizabeth’s reign, when probably the ſchool rendered ſo famous by him fell into decay. At all events, I have not been able to diſcover any trace of its exiſtence, until the original Ormonde foundation was revived and placed on a more ample footing ſhortly after the Reſtoration of Charles II. Again to quote Banim:—“In 1684, the firſt Duke of Ormonde, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, granted a new charter to Kilkenny College, veſting in himſelf and his heirs male the appointment of maſters, and the office and dignity of patrons and governors of the eſtabliſhment. The ſtatutes paſſed by him on this occaſion, no leſs than twenty-five in number, are each of formidable length, regulating every thing, from the maſter’s morals, religion, and ſalary, to the puniſhment to be inflicted on an urchin for ‘cutting or defacing the deſks or forms, walls or windows of the ſchool.’ Under this new arrangement the College alſo changed its ſituation from ‘the weſt of the churchyard’ of St. Canice, to a large building at the other extremity of the town of Kilkenny, which, together with a fine park, and the rectories and tiſhes of ſeveral pariſhes near and diſtant, the patron granted in truſt, for its uſes and advantage.”

The houſe which the Duke of Ormonde at that period converted into a free ſchool (as appears by an eſtimate for the neceſſary alterations, ſtill exiſting, dated November 3, 1666), was ſituated “in St. John’s Towne,” and belonged to the City of Kilkenny. It had been built by one Mr. Seix, and was then in poſſeſſion of his Grace’s tenant, named Badgge, at a rent of £25 per annum. The houſe is deſcribed as being built in a figure of four ſides, with a ſmall central court; the ſtreet front meaſured ſixty feet, and the depth was eighty feet in the clear; the central court was twenty feet by ſixteen; and it had a garden attached which reached to the meadow. Attached to this larger houſe, in the rear, was another, ſixty feet long by twenty wide, and which had been built ſince the erection of the larger concern. The roofs, floors, and partitions are ſaid to have been in good condition, and the MS. further ſtates that, “all the whole houſe in every ſtory is reaſonably well boarded with oake boards, and ſtrongly layed, and good ſtrong ſtayrecases of oaken boards; and ye tenants hath beſtowed good glazing of many windowes on ye houſe.” The building was three ſtories high beſides the garret, and is thus deſcribed:—

1ſt ſtory—“To begin with the lower ſtory that lies a foot higher than ye kennell of ye ſtreet,” it had backwards a kitchen 22 by 26 feet,

* *The Deſcription of Ireland*, apud Holinſhed, fol. 14, dorſo.

with a good chimney 10 feet wide; by the side of this apartment ran the mill-stream, described as "a constant river of water." On the same floor might be an "eating-hall," 60 feet by 22, and 10 feet high, besides rooms for larders, cellarage, storage for goods, &c.

2d story—"On the second story is a very ffaire roome towards the street, with good hight, 22 feet by 60 long, I suppose big enough for the schoole;" and at either end, rooms for the master, ushers, servants, and ten of the principal scholars.

3rd story—"This storye will be most convenient for so many scollars' chambers as it is capable off, and that can have chimneys; alsoe one of ye ushers ought to lye in this story to regulate the schollars from disorders as may happen."

4th story or garret, it is stated, may also be made into rooms with chimneys for the scholars; in all, with the other floors, affording accommodation for the master, ushers, and 60 scholars.

These alterations, together with the breaking out of several new windows, are estimated, at the lowest (materials included), at £180. The paper is endorsed in the Duke's own hand—"Estimate for repairing a house to make a free schoole of."

The interesting document from which these extracts are taken, is preserved in the Evidence Chamber, Kilkenny Castle, where I have been permitted to consult it by the noble owner of that invaluable repository of the historic records of Ireland.

The old College, the internal economy of which is so minutely brought before us by the manuscript alluded to, was well remembered by the last generation—amongst others, by our late fellow-townsmen, Edward Denroche, Esq., of John-street, an *alumnus* of the school, who, during a long life spent in his native City, by the probity and sterling worth of his character, reflected honour on the establishment in which he had been educated. Mr. Denroche described the old College as bearing a general resemblance to the ancient mansion of the Rothe family still standing in High-street. It consisted, according to his statement, of a quadrangular building with a central court. In the street front were two archways, still remaining in the wall at each side of the present entrance gate. These archways gave entrance to the central quadrangle, and between them, projecting into the street, was a high double flight of steps, which gave admittance to the first floor. The school-room was a lofty and very large apartment, and was situate on the east side of the quadrangle; the windows of which, large and of massive framed timber, looked out on the mill-race. The domestic buildings were two stories high, and occupied the west side of the quadrangle, where the stables and out offices of the present College stand. Mr. Denroche commenced at the College when he was six years old, at which time Dr. Hewetson, afterwards prebendary of Aghour, and rector of the union of Freshford, was master.

Another *alumnus* of the school, already more than once quoted, the

late John Banim, whose fame as a novelist is co-extensive with the English language, in his "Fetches," has left us also the following graphic portraiture of his *alma mater*, which agrees in the main with Mr. Denroche's testimony:—

"We find it necessary to observe that the building, to which the title 'College of Kilkenny' now applies, is not the same endowed by the Duke of Ormonde. The Irish tourist is at present shown, from an opposite bank of the Nore, a large square modern house, three stories high, dashed or plastered, and flaunting with gay and ample windows; and this, he is informed, is 'the College.' Turning its back in suitable abstraction, upon the hum and bustle of the small though populous city, it faces towards the green country, an extensive lawn spreading before it, and the placid river running hard by, and is altogether appropriately and beautifully situated. But the original edifice, that existed at the time of our story, was pushed further back, faced into the street of the town, and was a gray reverend pile of irregular and rather straggling design, or, we should perhaps say, of no design at all; having, partly, a monastic physiognomy, and partly that of a dwelling-house, and bearing, to its present gay successor, about the same likeness that the levee skirts of Anne's time bear to the smart swallow-tail of the last summer but one.—The entrance to the school-room was immediately from the street, through huge oak folding doors, arching at top, and gained by two grand flights of steps at each side, that formed a spacious platform before the entrance, and allowed under them a passage by which visitors approached the College. To the left was another gateway where carriages had egress. The whole front of the building was of cut stone, with Gothic windows composed of numerous small panes of glass, separately leaded, and each of diamond form; giving the appearance of a side or back rather than a front, on account of its grotesque gables, chimneys, and spouts, the last of which juttred into the street, to the no small annoyance in rainy weather of the neighbours and the passengers; while, from the platform before the school-room entrance, the lads of the College contrived, in all weathers, further annoyances of every description."

The ancient Register of the school exhibits an ample list of names under this new foundation; many of them afterwards holding distinguished positions in church and state. However, the troublous times of the Revolution passed not over the land without affecting the "famous schoole" of Kilkenny. The coming change was foreshadowed so early as 1686; on the 18th of August in which year, Thomas O'way, Bishop of Ossory, writing from Kilkenny to J. Clarke, Esq. (one of the Duke's confidential servants, and ancestor to Field Marshal Clarke, Duke of Feltre), says:—"On the last Thursday in July, the visitors were at his Grace's Schoole, where they found all things well, considering the great discouragement all things are under here, in which the very schoolboys have their share, who would be more numerous if the times were more

serene. There are in the Schoole fifty-one." (Original letter, Evidence Chamber, Kilkenny Castle). This allusion to "the times" has reference, there can be no doubt, to James the Second's policy in Ireland. At that very period there was a rival school set up in Kilkenny, which James afterwards erected into a University.

Alarmed by the policy of the crown, Dr. Hinton, the then master of the school, with many others of the Protestant party, fled to England during Tyrconnell's government. After the master's abdication the Lord Lieutenant converted the school-house into a military hospital; and to this purpose it continued to be applied until James' arrival in Dublin. Shortly after that period, taking advantage of Dr. Hinton's absence, that King by Royal charter, dated the 21st of February, 1690-1, declared the master attainted, and on the original foundation "erected and endowed a Royal College, consisting of a Rector, eight Professors, and two Scholars, in the name of more, to be called *the Royal College of St. Canic at Kilkenny of the foundation of King James*." (Harris' *Life of William III., Dublin*, 1749, p. 234, in the appendix to which work, p. lvi., the charter is given at length). But with James' fortunes the star of the University of St. Canice also set. And when, after the rout of the Boyne, the second Duke of Ormonde again took possession of his paternal castle and property at Kilkenny, the school endowed by his grandfather was restored to the original foundation; under which it continues to the present day to exist, with the exception that the appointment of the master was conferred on the Provost and Fellows of Trinity College, Dublin, in consequence of the withdrawal of the Duke of Ormonde to France in 1714.

The famous men who have received their education in this foundation have been most numerous. On this subject I may quote another passage from Stanihurst, who, in his historical work, *De Rebus in Hibernia Gestis Libri Quatuor*, p. 25, again gratefully blazons the achievements of his old master:—

"Hic ludum aperuit, nostra ætate, Petrus Whitus, cuius in totam Rempublicam summa constant merita. Ex illius enim schola, tamquam ex equo Troico, homines litteratissimi in reipublicæ lucem prodierunt. Quos ego hic Whiteos, quos Quemerfordos, quos Walsheos, quos Wadingos, quos Dormeros, quos Shethos, quos Garueos, quos Butleros, quos Archeros, quos Strongos, quos Lumbardos, excellentes ingenio & doctrina viros, commemorare potuissem, qui primis temporibus ætatis in eius disciplinam se tradiderunt." Amongst this array of names, comprising those of most of the old gentry of the Pale, many hold a distinguished place in the annals of literature and of the state,—Lombard, the historian and Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh; Wadding, the annalist; Dormer, the poet (author of "the Decay of Ross," in ballad-royal); Walsh, the translator of Cambrensis, and White, whose refutation of that author's statements regarding Ireland has lately been brought to light by the labours of

the Rev. M. Kelly;* Gerald Comerford, an eminent lawyer, Queen Elizabeth's Attorney for Connaught, and second Baron of the Irish Exchequer; Elias Shee, "a gentleman of passing good wit, a pleasing conceited companion, full of mirth without gall, who wrote in English divers Sonnets;" Butler, who translated Corderius' "Book of Phrases" in 1562; Archer the Jesuit, for whose actions the "Pacata Hibernia" may be referred to; and, not the least notable amongst these distinguished individuals, Stanihurst himself, who besides his celebrity as a man of letters, may also be mentioned as the uncle of Archbishop Ussher. Amongst the names entered on the Register of the school, as re-founded by the first Duke of Ormonde, I find those of Baldwin, afterwards Provost, and a benefactor of, Trinity College, Dublin; Bishop Berkeley, with regard to whom it is difficult to decide whether his fame as a man of letters, or as a Christian philanthropist, stands highest; his friend and correspondent, the patriot Pryor; Armaker, Archdeacon of Armagh in 1690, and author of several works; Congreve the dramatist; and Harris the historian. As we draw nearer our own day, many a famous name also stands out proudly from the throng of less distinguished *alumni* of Kilkenny College—Harry Flood the orator of his day; Yelverton Lord Avonmore, and Sir Hercules Langrishe, also luminaries of the Irish House of Commons; Michael Cox, Archbishop of Cashel; Hugh Carlton, Solicitor General; and, though last not least, John Banim. Scions of the noble Houses of Desart, Inchiquin, Colooney, De Vesci, Waterford, Llandaff, Mornington, Lismore, Charlemont, Hawarden, Ashbrook, Ross, Howth, Thonmond, Clifden, Boyle (ancestor to the Duke of Devonshire), Bandon, Shannon, &c., appear amongst the names entered on the Register; in which also will be found frequent mention of the families of note and mark in this and the surrounding Counties, viz., Cavanagh, Staples, Cuffe, Cosby, Penefather, Vandeleur, Wemys, Flood, Langrishe, Bryan, le Hunte, Butler, Cramer-Coghill, Wheeler, Izod, Barker, Greene, Warburton, St. George, &c., &c. Whilst amongst the names by some chance omitted therefrom, may be enumerated the far-famed Dean Swift, and Farquhar the dramatist, who are known to have received their education at Kilkenny College. Sir Richard Steele, the friend and compeer of Addison, whose father was private secretary to the Duke of Ormonde, it is likely also spent his early years at this school.

The names now enumerated fully justify the remark of Banim that it was after the restoration of its original charter "this seminary rose to the height of its fame, and that young Irish noblemen and gentlemen crowded its classes for the most approved preparation for University honours. It might be called the then Eton of the sister country."

Dr. Ledwich, in his History of Kilkenny, says of the institution—

* *Apologia pro Hibernia, sive Fabularum et Famosorum Libellorum Silvestri Giraldi Cambrensis, Refutatio. Auctore Stephano Vito, nunc primum edita cura Matthæi Kelly, in Collegio S. Pat. apud Maynooth, Professoris, etc. Dublinii: apud Johannem O'Daly, 1849.*

“ this school has had a succession of eminent masters, has produced men of great learning, and is justly esteemed the first school for the education of youth in this kingdom.” The names of the masters since the Duke of Ormonde’s foundation are as follow :—

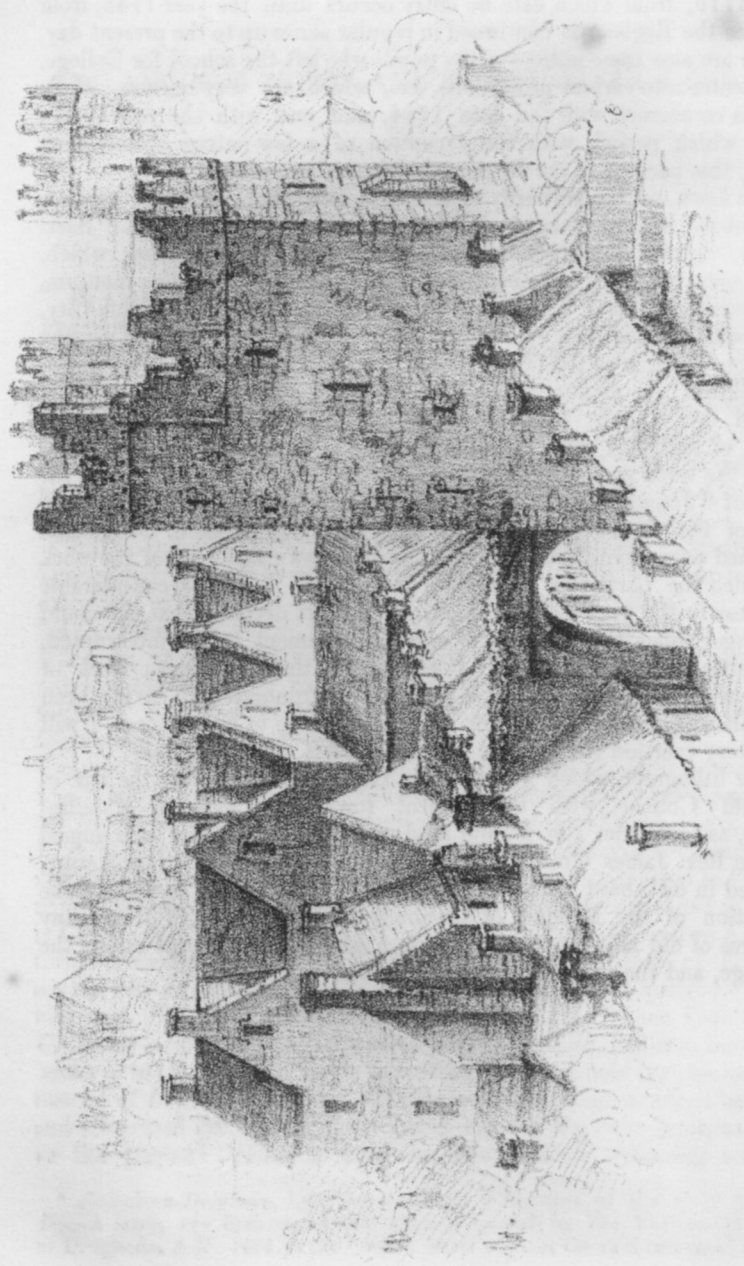
- 1670. Edward Jones, D.D.
- 1680. Henry Ryder, D.D.
- 1684. Edward Hinton, D.D.
- 1702. William Andrews, D.D.
- 1714. Edward Lewis, A.M.
- 1743. Thomas Hewetson, LL.D.
- 1776. Richard Pack, A.M.
- 1781. John Ellison, D.D.
- 1793. Anthony Pack, D.D.
- 1810. Andrew O’Callaghan, A.M.
- 1820. William Baillie, LL.D.
- 1842. John Browne, LL.D.

Amongst these, Dr. Edward Jones was afterwards made Bishop of Cloyne, and Dr. Ryder Bishop of Killaloe; but, alas! “tempora mutantur”—the masters are no longer made Bishops; our great men and our little men are not satisfied with education in Ireland, and the lamentable consequence, obvious to all, is an unlearned and mentally dwindled race, instead of the giants of those days when Ireland educated her own sons.

Our young gentry (with a few honourable exceptions) bring home from England and the Continent, ideas unsuited to their circumstances, and habits that unfit them for the duties of good and plain country gentlemen in Ireland. But let us hope that better days are coming to Ireland, that her sons will no longer be alienated in their affections from the land of their nativity by a foreign education, and that our gentry will become wiser and adopt the German maxim of educating their boys in the country in which they are to live. Then we shall no longer be able to adopt, as applicable to our people, but we shall be able to reverse, the celebrated lines of Horace :—

“ Atas parentum pejor avis tulit
Nos nequiores mox daturos,
Progeniem vitiosiore.”

The earlier portion of the Register, which I have caused to be transcribed for the library of the Society, commences with October, 1684, and ends with July 27th, 1688; after this occurs a *lacuna* of nearly three years, an omission which is explained by the heading prefixed to the next entries, viz. :—“The names of such as were admitted into His Grace the Duke of Ormond’s Schoole at Kilkenny *since the Warre ended in Ireland* in the year 1691.” The first entry of this portion is dated January 20th, 1691-2, and the series is complete up to August



MAUDLIN'S CASTLE AND GATE AND THE OLD COLLEGE
KILKENNY.

6th, 1716, from which date no entry occurs until the year 1743, from whence the Register is continued in regular series up to the present day. There are also some notices of the pupils who left the school for College, or to enter into various professions, &c., which are very curious; these entries commence with the date 1684, and end with the year 1704; since which period, with the exception of a few entries commencing 1743, this portion of the Register has been discontinued.

We learn, on the authority of Ledwich, that there formerly existed, in Primate Marsh's Library, Dublin, a book of poems, intitled "Sacri Lusus," by the young gentlemen of the College of Kilkenny; which, I am sorry to say, is not now to be found there. I may also mention, in conclusion, that I have heard from Mr. B. Scott, sen., of this City, an interesting anecdote connecting Dean Swift's name with Kilkenny College, which is as follows:—When the old College was pulled down, Dr. Ellison was master of the school. The oak timber-work was purchased by his (Mr. Scott's) uncle, the father of the late Mr. Martin Scott, of Kilkenny, who therewith erected his tenement in High-street. After the work was finished it came to Dr. Ellison's knowledge that the name of "Jonathan Swift" existed, carved in school-boy fashion, on some part of the woodwork. Anxious to obtain this treasure, Dr. Ellison obtained permission from Mr. Scott to pull down that part of the work in which the particular board had been used; but after considerable progress in the work of demolition, *Mrs.* Scott declared that she could no longer suffer the business of the establishment to be interrupted, and put a stop to the search. I understand that the timber work of the house erected at that period remains, the frontage only having been re-built within a few years back. If such prove to be the case, I will use every exertion towards the recovery of this interesting relic.

The lithograph which accompanies this paper represents the rear of the old College, with the ancient tower and gate in Maudlin-street, as seen from the Dublin road at Windgap, and has been copied by the Rev. James Graves from a very interesting view of Kilkenny, painted in oil about eighty or ninety years back, and at present in the collection of the Marquis of Ormonde. This picture exhibits many features of old Kilkenny now no longer remaining; amongst others the College, and the gateway above alluded to.

ADDENDUM.

Page 229, after last line add—

Since the foregoing was in print I have been informed by the Rev. James Graves, that Ledwich has committed a twofold mistake in stating that the "*Sacri Lus*" was lost, and that the poems were composed by the young gentlemen of Kilkenny College. The volume in question is still to be found in Primate Marsh's Library, Class K. 3. Tab. 5. No. 9; and is entitled "*Sacri Lus* *In Vsum* Scholæ Kilkenniensis. Dublinii: Typis Regiis, & Venum dantur apud Josephum Wilde. c1o locL. * * *". The date is defective, having been partly cut away by the binder. The book is in small quarto, and is imperfect, ending at p. 64; it consists of Latin poetry in elegiac measure, chiefly on Scripture subjects. On the fly-leaf is written, in an old hand, "Daniel Mead, ex dono Geo. Pigott." On the title, "Mich. Jephson"; whose library was purchased by Primate Marsh.

CORRIGENDA.

- p. 117, l. 8, for "Anglesea" read "Anglesea".
- p. 133, l. 27, for "these" read "those".
- p. 142, l. 34, for "of" read "of".
- p. 148, note, l. 1, after "Phœnician" dele „.
- p. 157, l. 17, for "*Muillend*" read "*Muilend*".
- ib., l. 24, for "*Maelodron*" read "*Maelodran*".
- p. 164, l. 11, for "*Muilenu*" read "*Muilenn*".
- p. 174, l. 35, for "connection" read "connexion".
- p. 177, l. 9, for "*barry of four*" read "*four barrulets*".
- p. 182, l. 27, for "Edward" read "Edmond".
- p. 187, l. 31, for "twenty-four" read "fourteen".
- p. 191, l. 27, after "of" insert "the".
- p. 192, l. 37, after "tenure" dele „.
- p. 193, ll. 44, 45, for "two trefoil-headed niches" read "a shallow canopy".
- p. 195, ll. 14, 22, for "Sugard" read "Ingard".
- p. 198, l. 8, for "acre" read "Loftus acre".
- ib., l. 18, for "Ballymagin" read "Ballymagir".
- p. 200, l. 9, after "rain" dele „.
- p. 213, l. 39, for "meta" read "metal".
- p. 216, l. 34, for "Vol. I." read "Vol. II".
- ib., l. 35, for "*luaned*" read "*luued*".
- p. 222, l. 15, for "magnificent" read "magnificent".
- p. 240, l. 39, after "brothers" dele „.
- p. 260, l. 32, for "of Nassau" read "daughter of the first Duke of Beaufort".